

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARMINTA BROWN AS  
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Charminta Brown is a passionate, servant leader with years of experience in higher education. Originally, a New Jersey native, she moved to Florida in 2013 to earn her Master of Science in Higher Education Administration from Florida International University and decided to make Florida her permanent home.

Ms. Brown's leadership style is one of authenticity and understanding, and her ability to connect with people has been instrumental to her success. From holding multiple student leadership roles during her undergraduate career to successfully supervising over 40 employees in her professional career, her collaborative and supportive grace makes everyone in the room feel seen and heard.

Ms. Brown seeks ways to implement innovative solutions to advocate for underrepresented demographics. In 2022, she founded Brown Joy, LLC to create positive images of Black and Brown characters to help children see Black and Brown characters represented in more dynamic positions.

She has been recognized for her work within the community. In 2022, she received the Young Professional of Osceola County Tomorrow's Leaders Today award. She also actively volunteers and serves on the Board of Directors for Poinciana Area Council, Steps Foundation, Inc., and Young Professionals of Osceola County. Ms. Brown uses her diverse experience to bridge gaps and create more opportunities for people in her community.

Her leadership has provided college students with success. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she created job opportunities for more than 20 college students qualified for federal work-study to gain professional experience while working from home. She helped award over \$50,000 in scholarships to students when serving as Valencia College's scholarships lead captain.

Ms. Brown's greatest love is for her daughter, Joy. Joy inspires her to be the best version of herself. Ms. Brown believes success comes when you show up as your true authentic self.

RECOGNIZING FARMINGTON  
WATER AND SEWER'S THIRD  
PLACE ACHIEVEMENT

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Farmington Water and Sewer on re-

ceiving third place in the Great American Water Taste Test at the National Rural Water Association's 2023 Rural Water Rally. Farmington attended in partnership with the Granite State Rural Water Association and was recognized among entries from across the nation for having the third-best tasting public water supply, thanks to their committed team at the Water and Wastewater Department. This recognition is a testament to the work of Chief Operator Chuck Tiffany and his hardworking staff composed of Steve Deinstadt, Jonathan Forbes, Jason Forbes, and John Donnelly.

Through their efforts, the Town of Farmington proudly supplies over 3,000 residents with high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all current state and federal standards. Supplying from 250,000 to 300,000 gallons of water per day via 2 pump stations, the Farmington Water and Sewer System is uniquely qualified to handle public demands for high quality drinking water through prolonged investment in their wastewater treatment facility. The town has made considerable improvements to their facility in recent years, including a state-of-the-art Sequence Batch Reactor. This new technology allows for improved handling of all current wastewater flow while ensuring that additional flow can be handled in the years to come as the town grows.

Proactive planning and investment in public health by the Farmington Water and Sewer system will serve as a blueprint for other public water systems looking to innovate and provide their communities with safe drinking water. As the Representative for New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend the staff at the Farmington Water and Sewer system for their outstanding contributions to our public health and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ROSLYN  
CHATMAN AS THE WALTON  
COUNTY, FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL  
SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Roslyn Chatman as the 2022-2023 Walton County Educational Support Professional of the Year. Since 2008, Mrs. Chatman has served the Walton County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best educational support professionals in the Nation. It is recognized that the position of Paraprofessional can be taxing but can also be so rewarding. Mrs. Chatman has performed her many duties without question or hesitation and does so with an encouraging smile towards all those she encounters.

Mrs. Chatman is revered by her principal and colleagues for her positive attitude and willingness to go above and beyond the scope of her job duties. She selflessly considers the needs of both students and staff because of the immense pride she has for her school.

Her support and outreach extend far beyond the hearts and minds of her own students through her willingness to help wherever assistance is needed. Mrs. Chatman has displayed dedicated teamwork by assisting with after-school events, including Title I Nights, carnivals, and tutoring. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve as an example for those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of these admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Mrs. Chatman as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mrs. Roslyn Chatman for her accomplishments and her commitment to excellence, professionalism, and innovation in the Walton County School District. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for 7 Roll Call votes in the House on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, and for 3 Roll Call votes in the House on Thursday, February 9, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

YEA on Roll Call No. 110, McGovern Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 185; NAY on Roll Call No. 111, Boebert Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 185; YEA on Roll Call No. 112, Golden Amendment No. 3 to H.R. 185; YEA on Roll Call No. 113, Rose Amendment No. 4 to H.R. 185; YEA on Roll Call No. 114, Torres Amendment No. 5 to H.R. 185; YEA on Roll Call No. 115, Motion to Recommit H.R. 185;

NAY on Roll Call No. 116, Passage of H.R. 185, "To terminate the requirement imposed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for proof of COVID-19 vaccination for foreign travelers, and for other purposes;"

YEA on Roll Call No. 117, H. Res. 104, "Condemning the Chinese Communist Party's use of a high-altitude surveillance balloon over United States territory as a brazen violation of United States sovereignty;"

NAY on Roll Call No. 118, H.J. Res. 24, "Disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022;" and

NAY on Roll Call No. 119, H.J. Res. 26, "Disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING LAVELL D. MONGER AS  
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, at 31 years of age, LaVell D. Monger prides himself on impacting his community. LaVell holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Missouri—St. Louis, where he was born and raised. He later received his Master of Education with an emphasis on higher education leadership from Florida Atlantic University. LaVell serves on boards of many notable non-profit organizations in the region and is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Moving to Osceola County to serve as co-owner of RTW Photography in 2018, LaVell oversees business development and community outreach. Since moving to Central Florida, he has been committed to making a difference in his community. Immediately, LaVell became part of many conversations to advance regional commerce, equality in education, and urban development.

In 2023, the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce will inaugurate LaVell D. Monger as the first African American board chair. He was vital in implementing a young professionals program and revitalizing the Government Affairs Committee. He also serves on the Osceola Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Through his leadership, the Black Business Coalition of Osceola County is one of the chambers' most successful initiatives.

In 2021, knowing the impact being a member of the Boys and Girls Club had on him growing up in St. Louis and how it shaped him into the young professional he is today, LaVell partnered with other community leaders to start a task force to open St. Cloud's first Boys and Girls Club branch. During the pandemic, this effort meant raising \$600,000 from community leaders so children in St. Cloud could have the support they need to succeed.

Innovative in business and selfless to the community, LaVell built his network knowing the importance of relationships and integrity while continuing to prioritize his community.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL HARRY T. STEWART, JR.

### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History month, I want to honor Lieutenant Colonel Harry T. Stewart, Jr., one of our Nation's most decorated Tuskegee Airmen who flew with the storied Red Tails, the 332nd Fighter Group made up of African American pilots in the then-segregated U.S. military.

Stewart's lifelong passion for flight began at a young age. At the age of 17, he passed a military exam identifying potential pilots and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet. Following flight training at Tuskegee Airfield in Alabama, Stewart was awarded his pilot wings and was commis-

sioned as a second lieutenant. Stewart then completed combat fighter training in both the P-40 Warhawk and the P-47 Thunderbolt fighter aircraft, and in 1944 was sent to Italy for combat operations. As a member of the all-black 332d Fighter Group, Stewart flew 43 combat missions in the P-51 Mustang, escorting heavy bombers to their targets, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In addition to his heroic actions during World War II, Stewart represented the 332nd Composite Group in the inaugural ten-day "William Tell" National Gunnery meet in Nevada. This meet would later become the equivalent of the U.S. Navy's "Top Gun" competition. His team's skills shined through in the competition, and the 332nd won first place in the conventional fighter class.

Stewart received an honorable discharge in 1950 and stayed in the Reserves, eventually retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree and worked in the private sector until his retirement, and now resides in Michigan.

Please join me in recognition of Lieutenant Colonel Harry T. Stewart, Jr. as we celebrate his courageous service to our country.

RECOGNIZING JOHNNY "THE JET"  
RODGERS

### HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of African American History Month, we recognize a leader who has helped people of all ages thrive in sports, education, and life. North Omaha's and Nebraska's Johnny "the Jet" Rodgers is more than a sports legend; he is a community champion.

Johnny became known as "the Jet" because of his speed and agility. Even in his teenage years, participating in football, track, and basketball, the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame described Johnny's performance as "nothing short of legendary." He would go on to establish an incredible football career as a punt returner, pass receiver, and running back at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

On his way to winning the Heisman in 1972, Johnny set an all-purpose 5,586-yard NCAA record; 72 yards were attributed to a punt return during the "Game of the Century" between Nebraska and Oklahoma in 1971. Not only did this gain him national acclaim, but College Football News and former coach Tom Osborne would go on to recognize Johnny as one of the best kick returners in college football history. He would later be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame after a professional career in the NFL for the San Diego Chargers and the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes.

When he returned to his hometown, he began building a legacy as an entrepreneur and community leader. While mentoring and teaching life skills to young athletes, Johnny served as the President of the 100 Black Men of Omaha and began the prestigious "Jet Award" honoring the best return specialist in NCAA Division 1 college football, all while creating the Johnny Rodgers Career and Technical Scholarship—serving students from ages 18 to 62, emphasizing the value and accessibility in education.

Beyond his commitment to education is his belief in representation. Johnny and I have had the honor of working together to achieve one of the country's highest response rates to the Decennial U.S. Census. Johnny lent his time and community connections to advocate for a complete and detailed census where "Everybody Counts."

On and off the field, Johnny has continued to accelerate and elevate his community. We thank him for his dedication to his hometown and his willingness to lead. On behalf of our Omaha community, I thank my friend for his leadership and service to our community.

HONORING SAN ANTONIO ARTIST  
AND VETERAN JESSE TREVIÑO

### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of the late Jesse Treviño, an internationally celebrated artist whose work has significantly influenced San Antonio's cultural landscape.

Jesse "Jesse" Treviño was born on December 24, 1946, in Monterrey, Mexico, and moved to San Antonio when he was 4 years old. One of 12 siblings, Jesse grew up on our city's Westside in the Prospect Hill neighborhood.

Jesse won his first art award, at the age of 6, for drawing a pair of doves in a student art competition sponsored by the Witte Museum.

As a young adult, he spent a year studying at the prestigious Art Students League of New York before he was drafted into the United States Army and sent to Vietnam. He was not a U.S. citizen at the time, but he felt an obligation to serve the country he called home.

In Vietnam, Jesse served in an infantry battalion deployed to the Mekong Delta until his unit came under fire in February 1967. Sprinting towards a helicopter, Jesse "felt a pair of crushing explosions nearby, and then a third thundering blast suddenly lifted him from the ground and flung him about 50 feet into a rice paddy."

When Jesse reflected on that moment in a 2009 interview with the San Antonio Express-News, he said he thought of his mother, brothers, and the barrio he grew up in. Jesse wanted to use his talent to paint these people and images.

However, life as he knew it would change forever. Jesse's injuries were severe and resulted in an amputation of his right hand. He was discharged from the Army in 1968.

Two years later, Jesse enrolled in San Antonio College and taught himself to paint with his left hand. It was through Jesse's love for the arts and his determination to capture San Antonio's Chicano culture and history that he became one of San Antonio's most famous artists.

Jesse is responsible for signature pieces, including "Mi Vida," an 8-by-14-foot pop art-inspired mural, "The Spirit of Healing," a 93-foot-tall mural on the side of the Children's Hospital of San Antonio, and "La Veladora," a three-dimensional, 40-foot-tall mural of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Some of his works have also been featured in the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Sadly, on Monday, February 13, 2023, Jesse Treviño passed away after a battle with cancer. He was 76 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in honor of the late Jesse Treviño, an American hero who used his gift of art to heal from the horrors of the Vietnam War and memorialize the Chicano culture that was dear to him. San Antonio was his canvas, and our city is blessed to have his artistry displayed throughout our neighborhoods.

I am grateful to share Jesse Treviño's legacy with the rest of the Nation. May he Rest in Peace.

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**HONORING NADEGE B. JEAN-PAUL  
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH**

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**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Nadege B. Jean-Paul is an EEO/Diversity & Inclusion Assistant at the Veteran's Healthcare Administration (VHA) Orlando Veteran's Administration (VA) Healthcare System. Ms. Jean-Paul began her VHA/VA career in May 2016 in the Medical Administration Service (MAS) as a Medical Support Assistant (MSA). In June 2018, she graduated with a "Stepping with PRIDE" Leadership Development Program certificate from the VISN 8 VA Sunshine Healthcare Network. Ms. Jean-Paul has proudly served as a federal employee for seven and a half years. Prior to joining the VA, Ms. Jean-Paul worked for the Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from 2011 to 2016 as the Assisting Supervisor in the Outpatient and Radiology Department.

In 2015, she was recognized by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs for Outstanding Accomplishments in the Field of Religion. She is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Health Services with a major in Health Administration. In December 2005, she was appointed as a Deaconess of the Church of The Living and Holy God in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In 2022, she completed a seven-week Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace certificate training course at the University of South Florida Muma College of Business. Ms. Jean-Paul was the Editor in Chief of the "EEO In the Know" Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter for the Orlando VA Healthcare System. In May 2022, she was selected for the National VHA Diffusion Academy for her contributions to the Diversity and Inclusion Advocate Program innovation project.

Ms. Jean-Paul has a passion for serving others with integrity, respect, and advocates for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the workplace.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHELE  
JENKINS**

**HON. MIKE GARCIA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life, memory, and service of Michele Jenkins, a loving mother, generous friend, and selfless servant of her community. A resident of the Santa Clarita Valley since 1964, Michele dedicated herself to bettering the lives of others through decades of service.

After graduating from William S. Hart High School, Michele attended the College of the Canyons before receiving a bachelor's degree from UCLA and a master's degree from the University of North Dakota. Grateful for the opportunities she had received as part of College of the Canyons' 1969 inaugural class, Michele was elected by the community to serve on college's Board of Trustees in 1984.

Michele remained on the board until her passing earlier this month, making her the Board of Trustees' longest-serving member. During this time, Michele served 6 terms as president, 5 as vice president, and 7 as clerk. Michele also participated in numerous groups and committees for the Board and led robust fund-raising efforts for the college. Among one of her most notable and lasting impacts on the board was her role in spearheading the effort to hire Dr. Dianne Van Hook as COC Chancellor. From 1988 onwards, Michele and Dr. Van Hook would work closely together to successfully transform the College of the Canyons from a local community college into a renowned institution which educates 20,000 Californians every year.

While her work with COC was the cornerstone of her life in public service, Michele's giving back to the community did not begin and end with the college. She also helped start the Santa Clarita Valley chapter of the League of Women Voters, as well as the local branch of the American Association of University Women. Additionally, Michele received the Single Mother's Outreach award for her efforts to support single parents. In what time remained, Michele enjoyed entertaining others, especially COC faculty and staff, and most importantly, spending time with her family.

While she will be dearly missed, Michele's impact on her family, the College of the Canyons, and the Santa Clarita Valley will not be forgotten. We will continue to honor Michele's incredible life and keep the Jenkins family in our prayers.

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**OBSERVING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES AWARE-  
NESS MONTH**

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**HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. While those with developmental disabilities in Delaware and around the country should be seen and heard throughout the year, we need to

take this month to learn and become more aware of the issues facing these Americans.

As of last year, 186,592 Delawareans were living with a disability and, of those living with a disability, it is estimated that 1.8 percent, or 3,359 Delawareans, are living with a developmental disability. While major strides have been made in making facilities, services, and opportunities accessible, Americans with disabilities—especially those with developmental disabilities—are still marginalized.

Americans with developmental disabilities face significant inequities. According to the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council, Delawareans with developmental disabilities face experience higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and pregnancy complications, as well as an increased risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19. People with developmental disabilities also face adversity from unconscious and conscious biases. And accessibility remains a significant issue that requires more attention.

It is for those reasons that National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is so important. Since it was first observed in 1987, National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month has helped spark a national conversation about addressing these issues. This March, we must recommit to gaining a better understanding of developmental disabilities, and to making our country accessible and equitable for all.

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**RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ALLEN C.  
BRADY, UNITED STATES NAVY,  
RETIRED**

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**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Captain Allen C. Brady, United States Navy, Retired, on the selfless life he has led during some of the most historical and pivotal moments of the past century. He has engaged in and witnessed events that have shaped our country, and his sacrifices in defense of our Nation and our freedoms cannot be overstated.

His willingness to stand ready through nearly 30 years of service, his resolve during 2,237 days of captivity and torture in North Vietnam, and his selflessness in continuing his leadership and passing on his experience to junior ranks following his release, is nothing short of exemplary.

On behalf of the entire Northwest Florida community and a grateful Nation, I would like to thank Captain Brady for his years of faithful service, devotion to duty, and commitment to excellence. His journey is one that will resound for years on what makes this country great.

For all he did for his country, I am truly proud to have Captain Brady as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Captain Allen C. Brady for his accomplishments and commitment to this country. I thank him for his service and offer my warmest regards and best wishes to him and his family.

HONORING LAWRENCE ALLEN AS  
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Lawrence "Lare" Allen is a lifelong resident of Osceola County Florida. He graduated from Osceola High and then from the United States Military Academy at West Point. After a tour in the Middle East, he returned to Osceola County to begin a career in education.

One of his biggest fears was being the person who extinguished a child's natural love of learning. He aspired to impart a sense of adventure, hope, and belief to his students. He wanted them to know they could become happy, productive members of society. He treated his students as if they were his younger cousins. He met them where they were and helped them move forward along their own journey.

Lare Allen believes a free quality public education should be available to all citizens. He has worked diligently to achieve that goal within his community. He understands that it begins with supporting the people who support our students since educator working conditions are student learning conditions. He noticed that too often legislation was implemented that did more harm to the students than good, so he became involved in his local union.

Since there was always more work available than people to do the work, he stepped forward to volunteer in a variety of roles. Regardless of one's party affiliation and regardless of one's race religion or creed, he would sit down to discuss how to better serve the students because he believed collaboration achieved better results than competition.

Lare Allen is currently the president of the Osceola County Education Association. He intends to retire this year. He will begin a new career as a day trader with more time to advocate for staff and students at the school board and state levels. He is happily married to his beautiful wife, Laura Portorreal Allen. They have several amiable children.

RECOGNIZING JAKE WOODARD'S  
BRAVERY AND HEROISM

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Jake Woodard. Late in the evening on the day after Christmas, with freezing temperatures, Pennsbury High School Junior, Jake Woodard's family was driving home from a holiday party. As they were driving, Jake, a certified lifeguard and member of Pennsbury's JROTC program, noticed a car had pulled over to the side and a man was lying on the ground. A woman was waving for help. Jake immediately demanded that his dad pull the car over so he could help.

Jake got out of the car, and he immediately came to the aid of the man on the ground. Ap-

parently, the man had been walking on the sidewalk and hit a large patch of ice that was about three inches thick and landed on his back, likely hitting his head on the ground.

A woman and her son had seen the man and pulled over. However, as they were unsure how to help him, they waved down Jake's car for help. As the adults stood around questioning what to do, Jake took a knee and began speaking to the man by identifying himself and telling him he was there to help. The man told him his name and stated he had been on the ground for about 15 minutes. As the man was groaning in pain and stating that he couldn't move, Jake advised the man not to move. After a few minutes, the man lost consciousness, and as his eyes rolled to the back of his head, his tongue also rolled to the back of his throat. Jake reached into the man's mouth and cleared his airway to ensure he could properly breathe.

As they waited for the EMTs to show up, Jake continued to take the man's pulse and repeatedly checked that the man was still breathing all while saying "Dan, you are going to be okay, but you need to stay with us."

When the EMTs showed up, Jake immediately told them what had happened, how long he had been there, and included the rate of his pulse and breathing. As the EMTs stabilized the man's neck, Jake continued to speak to the unconscious man, Dan, telling him help was here, and that he needed to try and wake up.

When the EMTs struggled to get the man onto the gurney because of the thick ice, they asked Jake to assist. He reached under the man's lower back and legs, and as best he could he kept him stable while assisting the man onto the gurney. The man never regained consciousness, but Jake made sure the man didn't move, was still breathing, and made sure he knew he wasn't alone.

When it was all said and done, Jake's mom proudly hugged her son, and asked him how he knew what to do. He said lifeguarding taught him what to do and JROTC taught him why to do it, as he stated it was his duty to help.

We are all incredibly grateful for the bravery and heroism of Jake Woodard and all that he does for our community.

CELEBRATING DR. SUSAN  
SPERLING

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Susan Sperling in honor of her retirement as President of Chabot College after 11 years.

Dr. Sperling is the ninth president of Chabot College and the second-longest-serving president. During her 11 years as president, the college improved fiscal stability by securing funding for major infrastructure projects across the campus and helped secure Hayward Promise Neighborhood grants that bring federal resources to the most underserved communities of Hayward and deepen partnerships with local organizations and educational institutions.

In addition, under Dr. Sperling's leadership, Chabot College established the Dream Center

for undocumented students, the Black Cultural Resource Center and more than a dozen agreements and partnerships with feeder K-12 school districts.

Most recently, Dr. Sperling led the college through the unprecedented challenges brought on by the pandemic and the impacts this has had on students, faculty and staff.

Even before serving as President, Dr. Sperling's service to Chabot College goes back 36 years. She first served as an anthropology instructor, where she developed a new program curriculum. Dr. Sperling has also served in a series of faculty leadership roles, including faculty union president, college curriculum chair and dean of social sciences.

An anthropologist by training, Dr. Sperling received her doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, and completed postdoctoral research at the University of California San Francisco. This led to early career academic posts at University of California Berkeley, San Jose State and several community colleges.

As a community college serving marginalized and low-income communities, Dr. Sperling has brought a democratic vision to Chabot College, advocating for equal access to education and improving access to career pathways.

I join the community in celebrating the many achievements of her career and wish her rest and relaxation. I know Dr. Sperling looks forward to focusing more of her time on anthropology, serving her community and spending quality time with family, including her husband, Marc Janowitz, son, Max Landes, and daughter-in-law Emily Mraz.

HONORING DR. AMANDA  
WILKERSON AS A DISTIN-  
GUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL  
FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Amanda Wilkerson is a scholar and social reformer who examines academia and analyzes K-20 student achievement to better understand enhancing the human condition. She is a tireless advocate for equity and excellence in higher education who seeks to build a better world for individuals and institutions through cooperation, collaboration, and community engagement.

Currently, Dr. Wilkerson serves as an assistant professor in the College of Community Innovation and Education at the University of Central Florida. She is also an affiliated faculty member and a visiting scholar with the Center for Minority Serving Institutions at Rutgers University. A proud graduate of Florida A&M University, Dr. Wilkerson has written educational materials and coordinated forums on significant civic and scholastic matters. Dr. Wilkerson served as the guest editor for the Urban Education Research and Policy Annals Journal-Hillard Sizemore Special.

As a part of her passion for higher education and her mission to create inclusive learning environments, Dr. Wilkerson regularly works with instructional leaders to build their

capacity for studying and practicing equity-based pedagogical approaches. Her research focuses on explicating affirmative teaching practices, educational policies, and community organizing methods that improve community partnerships and bolster student success. Dr. Wilkerson has been recognized with the Outstanding Service in Education award by the Holmes Scholars Association of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and the Diversity Scholarship with the Adult Higher Education Association (AHEA). She serves as the national chair for the Urban Education Topical Action Group for AACTE.

Dr. Amanda Wilkerson is an innovator and an intellectual who continues to work on community initiatives. To date, she is the first faculty member in her department to secure a prestigious National Science Foundation award. Further, she is an expert with Florida ExpertNet, a publicly funded portal of research expertise in Florida's universities.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF  
CINDY GAULKE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember my friend and former colleague, Cindy Gaulke. During my time as a Portland city commissioner, Cindy was our office's scheduler and a dedicated public servant in the truest sense of the term.

Cindy was an integral team player, focused, and determined. She was the heart and soul of our City Hall office. She was dedicated to doing her job well, sorting things out, and was there when you needed her. And she had a great sense of humor.

When I won a special election to serve in Congress, I turned to Cindy to ask if she would come out to Washington, D.C. to help set up our Congressional office. I was thankful to have a friend and terrific partner as the team figured out how Capitol Hill worked. I will forever be grateful Cindy was willing to share some of her competence with me and my team.

Cindy was a bright spot of confidence, good cheer and dedication that made our lives function in our Nation's Capital. I am honored to have known her and to have worked with her.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF LINSEY EBERT

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a beloved teacher, athlete, coach, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend who inspired so many during her 45 years on earth, and continues to inspire and teach us even in death. Linsey Anne Ebert was born on September 12, 1977 in Howell, Michigan. She grew up in Fowlerville with her parents, Cecelia and Randy, and her older sister, Tonya. Active in many sports from a young

age, Linsey found her true passion on the volleyball court, playing on the varsity team as a high school freshman, earning all-state honors and eventually signing to play for the University of Michigan on a full scholarship.

There, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1999 while racking up victories for the Wolverine volleyball team and helping lead them to the NCAA tournament. To this day, she holds numerous university records, and even played internationally for a brief time after graduation.

As significant as her collegiate and athletic accomplishments were, they were just the beginning for Linsey, who went on to earn not one but two Master's degrees from the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, along with her teaching certifications. Her abiding faith was evident in all she did, including her early years teaching at-risk youth in Chicago Public Schools. The tug of family brought her back to Michigan, and in 2012 she was hired to teach middle school science and social studies in Dansville Public Schools, and as a volleyball coach at Fowlerville High School.

There are those who were born to teach, and Linsey was a prime example. She poured her heart into her lesson plans and her students and was passionate about implementing the most effective, research-based strategies. She mentored thousands of students and always sought to ensure they knew they were seen, valued, and loved, while pushing them to become academically proficient. Linsey was the first to step up to lead an extracurricular activity or club, to chaperone a trip, or to fill a void, including learning a whole new curriculum when the district needed a high school biology teacher. She was passionate about understanding systemic racism, educational inequities, and reaching marginalized students. It's no surprise that in 2018, Linsey was chosen as the Dansville Teacher of the Year for her outstanding teaching and service to the school and community.

I had the chance to meet Linsey a few years ago and hear firsthand her passionate belief in the power of education to change lives. She was active and engaged on every issue, and radiated love for her students and her craft.

Every one of us can look back and identify a teacher who made a difference. For thousands of students, Linsey Ebert was exactly that. She was brilliant, accomplished, and humble, and her sudden death rips a hole in the fabric of this small community. But even in death, Linsey, a registered organ donor, continues to teach us what it means to be fully devoted to the service of others. Mr. Speaker, I send my condolences to her family, her friends, her former colleagues, and the entire Dansville community. Just as her lessons will live on in the people she loved, it is only fitting that her name and her story be forever remembered.

RECOGNIZING BRENDA LAWRENCE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence for her more than 30 years of service to the people of Michigan.

A true servant of the people, Congresswoman Lawrence has inspired countless women to pursue better for their communities in public service. As an Eastsider of Detroit, her experience helped to shape her impact. Her career in politics began when as an active member in the PTA at her children's school, she ran for and won a seat on the Southfield Public Schools Board. She went on to serve on Southfield's City Council and broke barriers by being elected as the city of Southfield's first Black Mayor. She served four terms as mayor before she was elected to serve as a member of U.S. Congress in 2014.

Over the course of her career, Brenda Lawrence never wavered in her service to the people she represented. She has been an advocate, leader, and partner in the U.S. House of Representatives. The 12th Congressional District will forever remember her impact on our communities. We thank her for uplifting the voices of everyday people.

In honor of her remarkable career, please join me in celebrating Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence and her legacy of public service.

HONORING ERIC PINELLAS AS A  
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL  
FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Eric Pinellas was born and raised in Osceola County and graduated from Osceola High School in 1990. He went on to earn a degree from Georgia Military College and returned to Osceola County where he served as a behavior specialist with the Center for Drug-Free Living from 1995 to 1999. Mr. Pinellas knew his purpose was to impact our youth. He started his career with the Osceola County School District in 2000 as an educator and impactful coach.

Mr. Pinellas has dedicated his life to serving the youth while employed at Osceola High School—23 years coaching football, weightlifting, and track and field. He has coached nine state champions in track and field, two in girls weightlifting, and has been a member of four state runner-up coaching staffs in football. Mr. Pinellas has also helped over 50 of his athletes earn athletic scholarships to various colleges and universities across the country. He realized our youth could use their athletic abilities to take them to places they have never been. He understood those talents can be used as leverage to succeed. Most recently, he was named head football coach at Osceola after 21 years as a dedicated assistant coach where he also holds the title of head boys and girls track coach.

Mr. Pinellas' community involvement has also included volunteering with both youth football and youth track teams in the Osceola County community. These youth teams have been able to display their many talents at many national events across the United States. He is recognized as a strong pillar in the community. Mr. Pinellas has always felt it was his obligation to give back to his community in the same manner that he saw others do as he grew up in the city of Kissimmee. He lives by the motto "one child at a time."



HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
MICHAEL HARRIS

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of former Mayor of Pleasant Hill Michael Harris as he retires after more than 30 years of service to Contra Costa County.

Throughout his career, Michael has shown his steadfast commitment to bettering the lives of Contra Costans and improving our community. He began his career in public service with the Moraga Planning Commission, later going on to serve 4 years on the Moraga Town Council. When Michael moved to Pleasant Hill with his family, he used his skills to serve his new hometown. He was appointed to the Pleasant Hill Planning Commission in 1999 and was a key player in the creation of downtown Pleasant Hill. Thanks to Michael's leadership, the city has grown significantly, allowing businesses to thrive, and fostering a greater sense of community in Pleasant Hill. Michael also spearheaded the city's Community Service Day, allowing residents to unite in an effort to better the community.

Further, Michael has worked tirelessly to support our community's youth, establishing the Pleasant Hill Education Initiative to expand educational opportunities in the city and regularly volunteering at local schools. He also served on the Contra Costa County Managed Care Commission, managing the county's healthcare system and advocating for a reliable and effective healthcare system for all Contra Costans. Michael's work has had a profound impact on both Pleasant Hill and the county at large.

Outside of his work in government, Michael is also an esteemed optometrist and devoted educator. He serves as Clinical Professor Emeritus and Senior Lecturer Emeritus at the UC Berkeley School of Optometry. Michael has been a part of UC Berkeley's faculty for over 50 years, training thousands of optometrists and preparing them to enter the field. He has also authored over 200 scientific papers and published 4 books on this subject. Through his professional experience, Michael is able to offer a unique perspective and provide a clear vision of leadership for our community.

Please join me in congratulating Michael Harris on his well-deserved retirement after more than 3 decades of outstanding public service to Contra Costa.

RECOGNIZING TEMPLE BETH EL

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Temple Beth El, a religious organization in Bakersfield, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1947, Temple Beth El was created to help Central Valley residents embrace

a lifetime of Jewish fulfillment—through faith, culture, and community. That same year, they inaugurated their first Rabbi and installed a religious school for children. Since its founding, Temple Beth El has been an inclusive and welcoming space for people of all backgrounds to explore and maintain their spiritual and emotional connection to Judaism.

Temple Beth El is a place where all are welcomed—whether they were born Jewish or found Judaism later in life. The teachings provided can open the door to a lifetime of Jewish fulfillment and commitment. The members of Temple Beth El have dedicated their lives to promoting Jewish ideas and beliefs through education and community. In December 2007, Temple Beth El opened its Torah Learning Center, which offered 8 new classrooms to teach students about Judaism and Jewish heritage. In addition to its wide range of classes, the Temple Beth El Beginning Learning Center serves as a preschool and daycare for its members and their children.

For decades, Temple Beth El has played a vital role in the Jewish community throughout the Central Valley, particularly in Bakersfield. Through their religious services and education centers, they have created a safe environment for the Bakersfield Jewish community to come together.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Temple Beth El as it celebrates its 75-year anniversary.

COMMENDING JANNA LOPEZ FOR  
HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO  
THE COMMUNITY DURING THE  
HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON  
WILDFIRE

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janna Lopez from Las Vegas, New Mexico. The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire started on April 6, 2022, when a U.S. Forest Service prescribed burn got out of control. It burned 341,735 acres between April and late August in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains in San Miguel, Mora, and Taos counties. It was the largest wildfire in New Mexico history.

Janna immediately stepped up to help the residents of Mora and San Miguel Counties. In collaboration with the community, she rapidly set up a shelter where her team, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, provided food and shelter to hundreds of displaced residents for over 10 months.

Janna's commitment to serving others is inspiring. Her work to bring people and organizations together is the embodiment of community. Neighbors Helping Neighbors serves San Miguel, Mora, and Colfax counties and beyond. The team has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars directly and in kind to their neighbors. During the initial phases of the wildfire response, Janna also coordinated donations from local businesses, national relief organizations, and established a co-located

Disaster Relief Center with FEMA. Her passion for serving others has also led to her service as a Committee Chair for the Mora San Miguel Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon Long Term Recovery Group.

Janna is an exemplary model of how we can help one another as fellow citizens of this great Nation. We honor her and the countless New Mexicans, businesses, non-profits, and organizations who also donated their time, effort, and money to help New Mexico recover during this extremely difficult time. When President Biden visited New Mexico on June 11, 2022, he said, "We have a responsibility to help this state recover, to help the families who have been here for centuries in beautiful northern New Mexico villages who can't go home and whose livelihoods have been fundamentally changed."

Empowered by the work and stories of Janna and so many Nuevo Mexicanos, I introduced the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act. Congress passed and President Biden signed into law this legislation and \$3.95 billion in relief to rightfully compensate the fire's survivors and help them recover. Uniting to work toward a common goal is what America represents. Help is finally here. The hardworking people in New Mexico and across the country have shown us what true community looks like. Janna is one of those community heroes. I thank her for her selflessness and dedication to service.

HONORING DR. SANDRA NIXON  
TYNES AS A DISTINGUISHED  
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA  
FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sandra Nixon Tynes, an educator and ordained Christian Evangelist, co-founded the Welcome Table Ministries along with her husband Deacon Carlton A. Tynes, a Korean War veteran and 30-year civil servant. They had a joint vision to establish a ministry dedicated to serving others. Although Deacon Tynes transitioned in December of 2019, Welcome Table Ministries continues its good work under co-founder Dr. Sandra Nixon Tynes with an ardent, unwavering mandate to serve the hopeless, the hungry, the homeless, and the helpless.

Since its inception, Welcome Table Ministries has served over 29,000 hot nutritious home-cooked meals and provided confidential counseling, free resumes, free tutoring in English language arts, special holiday treats/gifts, emergency groceries, and monetary crisis assistance. Dr. Tynes also provides assistance with religious services. Welcome Table Ministries has touched the lives of many in countless strives to fulfill its mission to "share the sweet love of Jesus Christ one hot meal and one act of kindness at a time." They have been doing so for over 23 years.

Dr. Tynes has been recognized by the City of Kissimmee with a proclamation for the ministry, service, and partnership with other community organizations in Osceola County.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF FIVE NEW YORK FIRST RESPONDERS IN VALATIE, NEW YORK

**HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous and lifesaving actions of five first responders in Valatie, New York. Early on the morning of December 21, New York State Troopers Joseph Edinger and Nick Norton, Columbia County Sheriff Deputies Stephen Naegeli and Tyler Suchoski, and Valatie Fire Chief Joseph H. Loeffler entered a burning building in Valatie and rescued the three residents trapped inside along with two cats and a dog.

Despite the flames shooting out of the second floor and smoke pouring from the building, these five brave men risked their lives for those inside. For their selfless actions, the town of Valatie has recognized each of them with awards for their heroism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the valiant actions of these five brave men and those who supported them. Their quick and courageous response on the morning of December 21 is a shining example of the selfless work our first responders do every day to protect our communities.

REMEMBERING ANN RAPSON

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE to honor the life of Ann Rapson, an active member of the Piedmont community who recently passed away from advanced-stage brain cancer.

In addition to her professional achievements as an attorney with the Law Office of Louis J. Goodman, Ann served her community, as chairwoman of the Piedmont Park Commission and as a talented glockenspiel player for the Piedmont Community Marching Band.

Furthermore, Ann was an accomplished baker, winning the Alameda County Fair blue ribbon award for multiple pie contests over 15 years, most notably for her chocolate pecan pie.

Ann was also a local political organizer, where she volunteered for candidates whom she felt passionately would provide stable and steady leadership for her community. This has included candidates for district attorney, city council, mayor, and county judges.

In addition, Ann was active in the Jewish community as Vice President and active congregant of Temple Beth Abraham, an American Israel Public Affairs Committee lay leader, and a supporter of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

We're grateful for her leadership in the community and the legacy she created. Ann is survived by her loving family, including her husband David, daughters Pearl Mizrahi and Lilly Rapson, brother Louis Goodman, son-in-law Aron, mother-in-law Ellen Rapson, brother-in-

law Jeff Rapson, and granddaughters Grace and Lilah Mizrahi.

RECOGNIZING MS. SHELLY HINOJOSA AS THE WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Shelly Hinojosa as the 2022–2023 Walton County Teacher of the Year. For nine years, Ms. Hinojosa has served the Walton County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. Teaching is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. Hinojosa has excelled in teaching her students, while also striving to be an active and supportive member of her community.

Ms. Hinojosa is revered by her principal and colleagues for her willingness to always lend a helping hand. From her fresh ideas and innovative problem-solving skills, her school and students have greatly benefitted from her hard work.

Her support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of her classroom through her involvement as Yearbook Sponsor, College & Career Advisor, School Improvement Team member and School Digital Contact Lead. Moreover, Ms. Hinojosa shows her students each and every day that it is okay to have fun and still demand excellence from yourself. I commend her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all her admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Ms. Hinojosa as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Shelly Hinojosa for her accomplishments and her commitment to excellence, professionalism and innovation in the Walton County School District. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

HONORING DR. ANN Y. EASTMAN ELLISON TYLER AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ann Y. Eastman Ellison Tyler retired from Calvert County, Maryland Public Schools and moved to Kissimmee, Florida in 1991. As a music educator, she was urged to teach again. Her love of music in Osceola County public schools and in the community was evident as she created and nurtured soloists, choruses, and pianists. She rarely turned anyone down when music was needed for weddings, wakes, and funerals—performing with compassion and strict professionalism, many times gratis.

Dr. Tyler hails from the Bronx. Education was the primary family goal. After finishing Manhattan's High School of Music and Art, she earned her bachelor's and master's in music education from Howard University in Washington, D.C., joining Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Dr. Tyler earned her degree in curriculum and instruction in 2002 from the University of Central Florida while teaching in Osceola County. She speaks her mind to students, parents, and the government to improve situations.

Several Osceola committee appointments included affirmative action, charter review, and housing. She is a life member and past president of the Osceola County Education Association—Retired. Dr. Tyler's life achievement awards have come from the Osceola County Branch 5121 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Caribbean and Floridian Association, and the City of Kissimmee. She believes in and supports funding student scholarships.

Dr. Tyler's curriculum has always included American patriotic lyrics, African American gospel and jazz, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American folk songs, and acting and dancing skits from Pre-K, special education, to high school, enjoyed by the children and many parents.

Dr. Tyler has acted in commercials and the Zora Neale Hurston PBS documentary. Since retirement, she authored two books, "Grandma Julia" and "The New Octogenarian: The First 180 Days."

At 84 with two grown sons and her faith, life is full.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENERAL ALBEN "AL" HOPKINS

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of General Alben "Al" Norris Hopkins. Al, who passed away on February 12, 2023, was a giant who contributed to his community through his practice in law, military service, and business ventures. His life exemplified leadership, mentorship, and scholarship. He was also known as a man of integrity, work ethic, and faith.

Al was born in Ripley, Mississippi, on February 14, 1941. He grew up in Walnut, Mississippi where he also attended school, graduating from Walnut Center High School in 1959. In addition to being on the Honor Roll, an FFA Star Farmer, and achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout, he was a four-year varsity letterman in both basketball and baseball.

His scholarship included the obtaining of several degrees. He began his studies by attending Delta State University on an athletic scholarship, graduating in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in both English and history. Subsequently, he attended the University of Mississippi School of Law, where he completed his juris doctorate in 1965. In time, he would attend William Carey University, receiving his Bachelors of Biblical Studies. In 2010, he received an honorary Master of Laws degree

from Mississippi College School of Law. Additional theological studies included scholarship through Jerusalem, Israel; the Biblical Archeological Society at Oxford University; Keble College and St. Edmund Hall; and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Once he completed his studies in law, he became part of the third-largest law firm in Mississippi. He would go on to found his own law firm in 1977 in Gulfport, Mississippi: Hopkins, Barvié & Hopkins. He later devoted 13 years of his life as chief judge of the Court of Military Appeals. Additionally, to his own law firm, Al was president of ANH Enterprises and Muddy River Farms.

Al enlisted in military service in 1965, joining the 31st Infantry Division. As part of his military career, he graduated from the Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia, serving as a Staff Judge Advocate for the Mississippi Army National Guard for over two decades. In his final four years of military service, he was the Assistant Adjutant General of the State of Mississippi. He retired as a Major General in 1996, having earned many awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the MS Magnolia Cross, the MS Magnolia Medal, the MS War Medal, the MS Emergency Service Medal, and the MS Longevity Medal. He was also a Mississippi National Guard Foundation Life Member.

More recently, Al was known for his work with the Mississippi Gaming Commission. He had been reappointed for a third term, which would have lasted until 2025. He had served as both a commissioner and chairman, beginning his service as chairman in 2015.

Al gave to others through the gift of time, being a mentor to many Mississippians. He also gave of his time through being a Sunday school teacher, a man of prayer, and a deacon at First Baptist Church in Gulfport.

Al is preceded in death by his father, Lloyd Carter Hopkins; his mother, Reba Norris Hopkins; his brother, Lloyd Gerald Hopkins; and his daughter, Ashley Anne. He is survived by his wife, Johna Ruth Hopkins, who is from Walnut, Mississippi; their son, Norris Hopkins (Jodie); his grandson, Carter Houston Hopkins; his sister, Lana Moss (Harvey); and his nieces and nephews.

#### HONORING THE WINNERS OF THE 2022-2023 BROWNSVILLE ISD SPELLING BEE

#### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winners of the 2022-2023 Brownsville ISD Spelling Bee, with special recognition to Nicholas Torres, who took home the first-place prize.

For those who may not be as familiar with the South Texas region, the Brownsville Independent School District (ISD) is the largest employer in the entire Rio Grande Valley. With an enrollment of more than 40,000 thousand students with a 95.4 percent graduation rate,

Brownsville ISD is thriving thanks to its dedicated faculty and staff.

The brisk February air was not enough to deter the more than 40 contestants who took part in the Brownsville ISO Spelling Bee, as well as the parents, family, friends, and alternates who joined them in the morning of February 4, 2023. More than 30 elementary schools and 10 middle schools were represented in the Spelling Bee, which has been held annually for more than 50 years. Additionally, each contestant was already a winner before the contest even started; every campus has an individual spelling bee, and the winners all competed in this event.

With the spelling bee lasting more than an hour and a half, each contestant made all of South Texas proud. Aime Garcia, from Putegnag Elementary, finished 5th. Javier Ramirez, of Hudson Elementary, finished 4th. Alexandra Garcia, of Manzano Middle School, finished 3rd. And Jack Kocaya, of Stell Middle School, finished second.

For the final two words, Nicholas Torres did not need the definition, part of speech, or for the judge to use the words in a sentence. After lawlessly spelling both bumptious, (self-assertive or proud to an irritating degree) and subsequent (coming after something in time; following) Nicholas Torres, of Egly Elementary, became the 2023 Brownsville ISD Spelling Bee champion.

Mr. Speaker, Nicholas Torres, the rest of the spelling bee champions, and all the educators involved in this year's spelling bee represent the best and brightest in our education system. I cannot wait to see what Nicholas and these bright young scholars accomplish in their future, and I am thankful for all the educators and parents who have given up so much to get them there.

#### HONORING JENNIFER PAUL AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Jennifer Paul is a lifelong resident of Osceola County. Jennifer is a warrior for bringing awareness to Black history matters in Osceola County and for her involvement in the Whitted Historic Community. In addition to serving in her community, Jennifer has over 15 years of experience in the Department of Defense manufacturing industry, where she currently works full-time.

Jennifer received the Osceola County Women Warrior award in 2022 for publicly sharing Black history from Osceola County of different lifelong icons who have served their community and community pillars. Also, for opening up opportunities for future generations.

Jennifer is a member of the NAACP of Osceola County 5121, serves as the chairperson for the environmental committee, and was recently elected to serve on the at-large executive committee for the local NAACP.

Environmental concerns within her community are another area to be enhanced through community involvement. She continues to advocate for inclusion in her community and equality for environmental injustices.

Bridging the gap between the community and local government is a priority for Jennifer. She also shares this same passion with her twin sister, Jessica, and they have partnered to provide the proper resources to the community.

Jennifer is the second of three children including her brother Justin and a mother to two beautiful daughters, Princess and Precious. Her supportive significant other supports all of her accomplishments. She is very proud of her parents, Larry Paul and Karen Starke-Paul, for instilling great values and work ethics in all of their children's successful lives.

She will continue to build a better community for the residents in the heart of the Whitted Historic Community.

On behalf of Jennifer, she would like to thank those who were involved in nominating her.

#### CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF TONY DEPRIMA

#### HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Anthony DePrima, who is retiring from his position as Energize Delaware's Executive Director on March 17th.

Tony moved to the First State in the 1990's to work for the city government of Dover, the capital of my home state of Delaware. He rose from planning director to city manager, and always kept a special focus on green energy. Tony has been instrumental in bringing renewable energy and environmentally friendly energy production to our state.

Energize Delaware knew that Tony was the perfect choice as their first Executive Director when they brought him on board in 2011. Since then, he has overseen the nonprofit's expansion into several sectors and has had a constant passion for helping all Delawareans live more energy efficient lives. Tony was recently recognized for his work by the Delaware Business Times as Medium Nonprofit CEO of the Year in 2022.

Along with his work with Energize Delaware, Tony is the vice president of the Capital School District Board of Education, the board treasurer of NeighborGood Partners, the board treasurer of Kent County Conservancy, the past president of the Dover Library Foundation, and a member of the Capital City Rotary in Dover. Among it all, he found the time to earn a Ph.D. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Delaware in 2018.

Tony DePrima's commitment to serving his community and the state of Delaware is nothing short of admirable. I am proud to salute him for his work and wish him all the best in retirement.

#### HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF LINDA VAIL

#### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of a consummate public



servant tirelessly devoted to improving the health and safety of the community. For the past decade, Linda Vail has served as Health Officer for Ingham County, overseeing more than 400 employees, an annual budget of more than \$50 million, and a network of health centers. And she's done so by always keeping science and justice at the forefront, with a no-nonsense, analytical approach. This, even as she faced extreme challenges brought on by a global pandemic, social upheaval, and the politicization of the field she so loves.

But it all began with a girl and a chemistry kit. Growing up in suburban Atlanta, a young Linda Vail was fortunate to have parents who nurtured her love of science. After excelling in all scientific endeavors in high school, Vail went on to earn a bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Georgia. Four years later, she arrived in Kalamazoo, Michigan as a researcher for pharmaceutical giant Upjohn. In 1996, she earned a Master's degree in public health administration at Western Michigan University, which led to her first public service position in emergency preparedness at Kalamazoo County's Health Department. She was soon promoted to deputy health officer, and then in 2006 to the role of health officer.

Her disaster preparation skills and studies were quickly put to the test when, in 2010, a pipeline rupture on the Kalamazoo River resulted in one of the largest inland oil spills in U.S. history. It was the efforts and advocacy of Linda and her team that kept that toxic sludge from reaching Lake Michigan, mixing with superfund sites, and multiplying the disaster into an all-out ecological and health catastrophe.

She joined the Ingham County Health Department shortly after, and became Health Officer in 2014. Under her tenure, Vail has brought a holistic, equity-based approach to the role and to the community. From greenlighting clean syringe exchange programs, to securing federal funds for gun violence prevention groups, and advocating for a declaration of racism as a public health crisis, Linda has constantly sought to amplify and expand the definition of what it means for a community to be healthy.

I came to know Linda as she skillfully led the county's response to the COVID-19 pan-

demic. She was the clear, concise, voice that calmly cut through the chaos, and I am so grateful for the way she always made herself available to me and my team. In early 2021, I joined her alongside volunteers to support a drive through vaccination clinic at Michigan State University, an experience I will never forget, and one made possible by her professionalism and advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Linda Vail's exemplary leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic saved countless lives in mid-Michigan, but it was not without a toll on her own. As she now steps back from the pressures of public health in an effort to focus on her own well-being, I salute her extraordinary devotion to reducing disparities, eliminating inequities, and creating a healthier, more just community for all. I wish her all the best in retirement and offer my gratitude for her long and fruitful career, and for her service above self.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF NORWICH NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER ZACHARY MINER

**HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Norwich firefighter Zachary Miner, who recently retired from the Norwich Fire Department after 20 years of dedicated service. Throughout his career, Zach has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service by ensuring the safety of his community.

Zach joined the Norwich Fire Department in December of 2002 and received his EMT certification two years later. Since his certification, he has treated thousands of patients and become a role model and teacher for others in his department.

In 2014, Zach was honored with the Firefighter of the Year Award and American Red Cross "Real Hero's Award" after heroically rescuing an adult trapped in a garage fire. His contributions and service to the Norwich community will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the career of

Norwich Firefighter Zachary Miner, a hard-working and dedicated public servant with an unwavering commitment to keeping Upstate New Yorkers safe.

#### HONORING MERCHON GREEN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Merchon Green is a graduate of Florida State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems and a minor in communications. She also earned a Juris Doctorate in Law from Southern University Law Center.

Merchon is the founder of MDG Advisory Group, a full-service consulting firm, and Pioneering Change, Inc., a community advocacy organization dedicated to equity and equality. Merchon founded Pioneering Change, Inc. in March of 2017 after a series of murders in the Gifford community. Pioneering Change, Inc. works to unify citizens, educate them to increase self-sufficiency, and equip them with strategies to advocate for themselves, as well as employ ways to better their communities.

Merchon has served on numerous committees advocating for equity, equality, and representation for the underserved. From 2018 to 2020, Merchon served as the chairperson for the School District of Indian River County's Federal Court Mandated Equity Committee, where she oversaw the district's compliance with the 1967 Desegregation Order, as well as made policy, program, and service recommendations to remedy inequities in the School District of Indian River County.

Today, she is the City of Orlando's first equity official and is working to ensure that all residents feel equally valued, equally protected, and have equitable access to opportunities in the City Beautiful.